

Office of Governor Mitch Daniels

Mar. 31 - Apr. 6, 2008 Volume 2, Issue 76



Weekly wrap-up

Governor presents Sachem to Bill and Gloria Gaither

April 2, 2008- Governor Mitch Daniels last week honored gospel music singing and songwriting pioneers Bill and Gloria Gaither with the 2008 Sachem, the state's highest honor.

The Sachem is given to an individual or individuals in recognition of a lifetime of excellence and moral virtue that has brought credit and honor to Indiana. Previous recipients include college basketball coaching legend John Wooden, the Reverend Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame and world statesman, and philanthropist Jane Blaffer Owen.

"It's very rare people like Bill and Gloria Gaither who not only achieve great things but do so in a way we can admire and that remind us all to try to be better people, remind us that all conduct is not relative, that all conduct is not equally worthy of our respect and admiration," said Daniels. "For a life of true excellence in achievement and performance and for lives led in ways that every Hoosier ought to want their children to imitate, we recognize them today."

The ceremony included performances by Hoosier recording artist Sandi Patty and Larnelle Harris as well as comments on Hoosier character by Anderson University President Dr. James Edwards.

Bill and Gloria Gaither are most well-known for their significant contributions to the Christian music industry over the past four decades. Their early success in performing and songwriting has grown the Gaither Music Company into an Indiana business that comprises a record company, production studio, retail store and a variety of related entities. Despite careers that have taken them throughout the world with their ministry, the Gaithers have continued to call Indiana home, living and raising three children just miles from the farm where Bill grew up.

"Governor Daniels said we had chosen to stay in Indiana and take our advice from our fellow Hoosiers. That is really true, and I don't think there is any more trustworthy advice, or opinions, or influences than the influences and advice and opinions of those who know you best on your block," said Gloria.

"Indiana is really a nurturing state, and I hope that will always be the case," said Bill.

At this date the Gaithers have collaborated on more than 700 popular gospel songs, winning eight Grammy Awards and more than two dozen Dove Awards from The Gospel Music Association (GMA). They have earned the title of the GMA's "Songwriter of the Year" eight times. In 2000, Bill and Gloria were named "Songwriters of the Century" by ASCAP (American Society of Composers Authors, Publishers).

[Read the Release](#)



April 2, 2008- In a ceremony held at the Indiana State Museum, Governor Daniels presented gospel music singing and songwriting pioneers Bill and Gloria Gaither with the 2008 Sachem, the state's highest honor. Pictured left to right: Governor Mitch Daniels, Bill and Gloria Gaither, Anderson University President Dr. James Edwards.

[Listen to audio from the 2008 Sachem ceremony](#)

To view past updates, click [here](#).

To visit Governor Daniels' Web site, click [here](#).

Governor commemorates efforts to double number of state caseworkers

Mar. 31, 2008- An effort initiated by Governor Mitch Daniels during his first week in office culminated last week when the final group of 800 additional staff dedicated to protecting children joined the Department of Child Services (DCS). Daniels marked the milestone by participating in a "swearing in" ceremony for the group of 32 new employees.

Daniels directed in January 2005 that the number of child protection workers in the state be doubled by hiring 750 additional caseworkers and 50 more supervisory staff and that training they received be changed and improved. More caseworkers were necessary to lower caseloads and improve the quality and quantity of services for abused and neglected children in Indiana and move the state from having the worst record in the nation for child fatalities.

"It's been a top priority getting here today, and you have some of the most important jobs in state government," Daniels told the group. "We'll pause for 30 minutes to recognize accomplishments but then it's on to the next improvement."

Since 2005 when the governor created DCS as a stand-alone cabinet-level department, he has directed that an additional \$77 million be spent on child welfare. Increased staffing and actions such as requiring a college degree in social work or a related field, plus mandatory training and mentoring before a caseworker is allowed to do field work and measuring standards of effectiveness, have put a stronger foundation in place for child welfare services.

[Read the Release](#)

Governor helps kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month

April 3, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Prevent Child Abuse Indiana last week on the south steps of the State House to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month and launch a new KIDS CAN'T WAIT campaign.

Children from the Day Nursery Association of Indianapolis listened as the governor thanked those who dedicate time to protecting children. "To all those who work in a volunteer capacity every day out of the goodness of their hearts in this best of causes, I thank you very much; this month is all about you," said Daniels.

Protecting young Hoosiers has been a key goal of the Daniels administration from day one, but the governor reminded those in attendance that although much progress has been made, Hoosiers must never be satisfied. "As long as a single child is in jeopardy and a single child is harmed, our job will not be done," said Daniels.

[Listen to Audio from the Announcement](#)



Mar. 31, 2008- Governor Daniels spoke at a "swearing in" ceremony for 32 new Department of Child Services caseworkers. The new staff members conclude an effort initiated by the governor during his first week in office to add 800 staff dedicated to protecting children.



Mar. 31, 2008- Governor Daniels greets Department of Child Services caseworkers at a "swearing in" ceremony held in the State House.



April 3, 2008- Governor Daniels joined Sharon Pierce, President & CEO of The Villages and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month.

A look ahead...

...Governor Daniels will travel to Carmel, Fort Wayne and Warsaw this week.